

Coins

A trio of textbooks adds up to a must for all hobbyists

By Roger Boye

DESPITE THE USUAL summer lull in coin collector enthusiasm, numismatic book publishers continue to update the hobby standard-bearers. Here is information on three books recently revised:

● "Standard Catalog of World Coins," by Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler, fifth edition. The 1,760-page volume is about the size of the Chicago phone book, much too big to take to a coin show for a quick check of mintage figures. But this book, with its pumpkin-colored cover, is invaluable in a collector's library.

The authors have listed nearly every coin issued in the world since 1790, a total of 69,000 types of coins, and they give the current retail prices for most of these coins in at least three grade categories.

In spite of its size, the catalog is easy to use, thanks to the logical arrangement of material by country and coin denomination. The book also has an "instant identifier" section, showing the symbols used on coins of some countries, in addition to other helpful explanatory material.

The fifth edition includes about 4,000 more listings than appeared in the fourth edition, about 2,000 more pictures, and 160 more pages. Coin listings for several countries—including Austria, Denmark, and Poland—now begin in the middle or late 1700s, rather than in the 1800s. As usual United States coins have the most detailed price information.

Not only is the fifth edition bigger than ever before, but it is also the most expensive. Collectors who aren't

scared away by the \$23.50 price—\$4 more than the fourth edition—will find reading the catalog a great way to get back into the collecting groove.

The book is sold in many coin stores, or it may be purchased by writing Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54945.

● "Price Guide for the Collector of Modern United States Paper Money Errors," by Tom DeLorey and Fred Reed, fourth edition. Another major numismatic publisher, Amos Press, Inc., puts out this popular book on an especially timely subject.

Much to the delight of collectors, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has made many sloppy mistakes in producing currency during the last two years. The authors have listed these and other errors, and even managed to include information about the \$20/\$10 double denomination notes that were found in the Houston area earlier this year.

Many error notes are illustrated, and the authors explain how the goofs occurred. To order the 124-page book, send \$3 to Amos Press, Inc., 911 Vandemark Rd., Sidney, Ohio 45367.

● "Guidebook of Franklin Mint Issues, 1978 Edition," by Chester L. Krause. The Franklin Mint, the world's largest private mint, has produced more than 17,000 items since it was founded in 1965. Krause lists the current market value for most of these items, including thousands of Franklin Mint-produced medals, foreign coins, and tokens.

The book is sold in some coin stores, or may be ordered for \$8.50 from Krause Publications at the aforementioned address.